GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3319
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
ISRO RESEARCH ON LIFE IN ATMOSPHERE
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists in ISRO, Hyderabad are conducting any research regarding the subject `Life can materialise out of thin air`; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTRY OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT.VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) A joint Indo-UK Team of Scientists conducted an experiment on January 21,2001 employing ISRO`s cryogenic sampler balloon payload to test the presence of extra-terrestrial micro-organisms in the Earth`s stratosphere at 41 km. The experiment consisted of a cryogenic sampler which was launched in a balloon flight from TIFR-ISRO balloon facility at Hyderabad.

(b) The samples collected have been extensively analysed by the Team in India and U.K. The results, inter-alia, suggestive of the presence of extra-terrestrial micro-organisms entering Earth`s atmosphere, were presented at several international symposia/conferences in USA, Europe and India, where they were well received.